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**FACSIMILE COVER SHEET**

**TO:** Gevell V. Selby

**FROM:** John A. Krause (Reg. No. 24,613)

**RE:** U.S. Patent Appln. No. 09/854,563  
Attorney Docket: 03500.015357

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John A. Krause

(Name of Attorney for Applicant)

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35.C15357

## PATENT APPLICATION

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of	)	
TETSUNOBU KOCHI	)	Examiner: Gevell V. Selby
Application No.: 09/854,563	)	Group Art Unit: 2615
Filed: May 15, 2001	)	
For: IMAGE PICKUP APPARATUS	)	
HAVING A COMMON	)	
AMPLIFIER (As Amended)	)	May 26, 2005

Commissioner for Patents  
Arlington, Virginia 22313-1450

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 U.S.C. § 1.312

Sir:

Prior to the issuance of a patent in the above-identified application, please amend the application as follows.

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(Name of Attorney for Applicant)

John A. Krause  
SignatureMay 26, 2005

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CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Please cancel Claims 2 and 3 and amend dependent Claim 14 as follows:

1-3. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously Presented) A solid-state image pickup element comprising:  
a plurality of pixel blocks each having a plurality of photoelectric conversion elements, a plurality of transfer switches for transferring signals from said respective photoelectric conversion elements, and a common amplifier for receiving signals from said plurality of transfer switches;

a scanning circuit for outputting a scanning clock for each pixel block; and

an operation processing circuit for receiving a plurality of transfer clocks corresponding to said plurality of transfer switches in said pixel block, for performing operation processing for the scanning clock output from said scanning circuit and the plurality of transfer clocks, and for supplying processed signals as clocks for driving said plurality of transfer switches.

5. (Original) An element according to Claim 4, further comprising a decoder for converting one transfer clock input into a plurality of transfer clock inputs

corresponding to said plurality of transfer switches in said pixel block and inputting the plurality of transfer clock inputs to said operation processing circuit.

6. (Original) An element according to Claim 4, wherein said operation processing circuit includes an AND operation processing circuit for receiving the scanning clock and the transfer clock.

7. (Original) An element according to Claim 5, wherein said operation processing circuit includes an AND operation processing circuit for receiving the scanning clock and the transfer clock.

8. (Original) An element according to Claim 4, wherein said operation processing circuit includes an OR operation processing circuit for receiving the scanning clock and the transfer clock.

9. (Original) An element according to Claim 5, wherein said operation processing circuit includes an OR operation processing circuit for receiving the scanning clock and the transfer clock.

10. (Original) An element according to Claim 4, wherein  
when said plurality of transfer switches of said pixel block are set as a plurality of first transfer switches, said operation processing circuit is formed from a plurality of second transfer switches,

the scanning clock is input to gates of said plurality of second transfer switches, and

the transfer clock inputs are supplied to said first transfer switches via said second transfer switches.

11. (Original) An element according to Claim 5, wherein

when said plurality of transfer switches of said pixel blocks are set as a plurality of first transfer switches, said operation processing circuit is formed from a plurality of second transfer switches,

the scanning clock is input to gates of said plurality of second transfer switches, and

the transfer clock inputs are supplied to said first transfer switches via said second transfer switches.

12. (Previously Presented) A solid-state image pickup element comprising:

a plurality of pixel blocks each having a plurality of photoelectric conversion elements, a plurality of transfer switches for transferring signals from said respective photoelectric conversion elements, and a common amplifier for receiving signals from said plurality of transfer switches;

a scanning circuit for outputting a scanning clock for each pixel block;

a reset switch arranged in each pixel block to reset a signal input portion; and

an operation processing circuit for receiving a reset clock input, for performing arithmetic processing for the scanning clock and the reset clock input, and for supplying a processed signal as a clock for driving said reset switch.

13. (Previously Presented) A solid-state image pickup element comprising:

a plurality of pixel blocks each having a plurality of photoelectric conversion elements, a plurality of transfer switches for transferring signals from said respective photoelectric conversion elements, and a common amplifier for receiving signals from said plurality of transfer switches;

a scanning circuit for outputting a scanning clock for each pixel block;

a selection switch arranged in each pixel block to select said pixel block; and

an operation processing circuit for receiving a selection clock input, for performing arithmetic processing for the scanning clock and the selection clock input, and for supplying a processed signal as a clock for driving said selection switch.

14. (Currently Amended) An image pickup apparatus comprising:

said solid-state image pickup element defined in ~~any one of Claims~~  
Claim 4, 12, and 13;

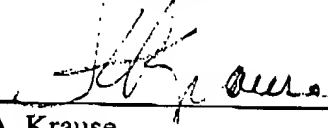
an optical system for forming light into an image on said solid-state image pickup element; and

a signal processing circuit for processing an output signal from  
said solid-state image pickup element.

REMARKS

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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